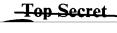
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Directorate of Intelligence





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Afghanistan Situation Report

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11 December 1984

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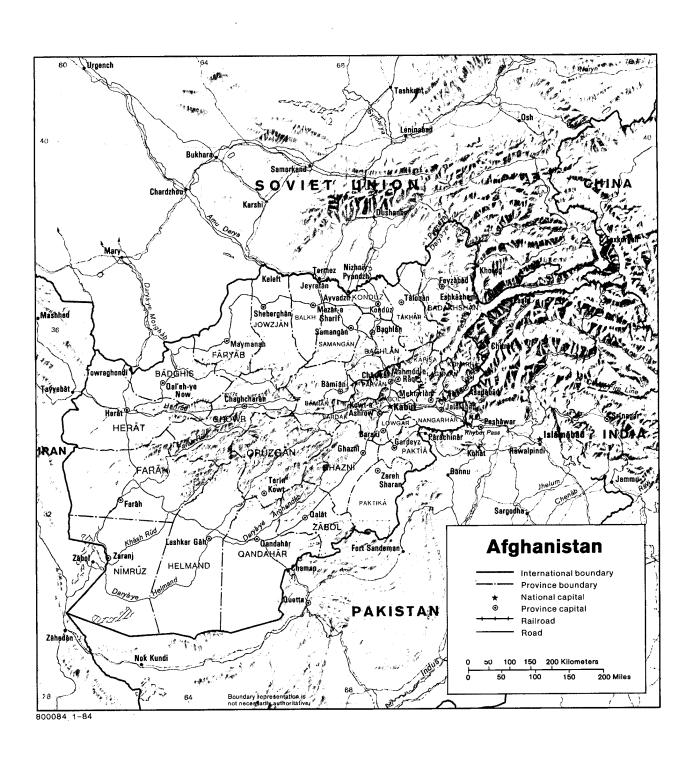
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AFGHANISTAN SITUATION REPORT		
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there is better than previously reported in Western press accounts.		:
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Soviet and Afghan military forces conducted no major offensives	3	
in Afghanistan during November except for an operation near Herat and continuing efforts to relieve outposts in Paktia Province.		
The insurgents staged some of the war's most intensive rocket attacks on Kabul, and the guerrillas' increasingly effective use		
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CONDI	TIONS IN THE PANJSHER	25 X 1
	the situation there is better for the insurgents than reported in Western press accounts. Buildings have suffered only superficial damage from ground fire and bombing, the agricultural infrastructure is intact, and civilian support for	25X1 25X1
	Panjsheri commande <u>r Masood is undi</u> minished. Insurgent morale also remains high.	25X1
	units comprising at least 200 guerrillas surround the largest Soviet and Afghan garrisons in the valley. Masood claims that the Soviets will withdraw their forces from the valley if insurgent pressure intensifies during	25 X 1
	the winter. Comment:	25 X 1
	results of the Soviets' most recent offensives into the Panjsher have been mixed. Masood's forces apparently have been successful in harassing Soviet and Afghan troops and in inflicting some casualties. Nonetheless, we see no signs that the Soviets are currently preparing to pull large numbers of forces out of the	25 X 1
	valley.	25X1
		25 X 1



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PERSPECTIVE	
AFGHANISTAN IN NOVEMBER	25X
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The Soviets and Afghan Army mounted no major offensives in Afghanistan during November, except for an operation in late November in the Herat area and continuing efforts to relieve insurgent pressure on regime outposts in Paktia Province. Insurgent rocket attacks in Kabul were some of the fiercest of the war, and the SA-7 threat to aircraft using Kabul International Airport caused the Soviets to implement new evasive maneuvers for takeoffs and landings. No major fighting is likely in the coming months, but the Soviets may try to prevent the insurgents from replenishing arms, ammunition, and supplies by attacking resistance supply lines in Afghanistan and along the Pakistani and Iranian borders.	25X ²
Kabul Security	
The US Embassy reported frequent rocket attacks on Kabul—most of which caused little damage and few casualties—including a barrage on 25 November that was called the most intensive since the Soviet invasion. The Soviets have tightened security in Kabul, and the Embassy reported rumors that the Soviets plan to depopulate villages in the Shewaki area from where most of the rocket attacks are launched.	i 25X
The Soviets are increasingly concerned about the safety of aircraft using Kabul International Airport. According to the US Embassy, there was a significant drop in the number of takeoffs and landings at Kabul in early November following the SA-7 shootdown of a Soviet military	
transport on 27 October. about a dozen helicopters had been shot down near the airport between mid-	25X
October and mid-November.	25X
The US Embassy in Kabul reported that all aircraft using the airport now are flying evasive maneuvers on takeoffs and landings to avoid insurgent antiaircraft missiles. The takeoffs and landings include sharp banking turns and steep ascents and descents over the city to avoid low—altitude flights over the hills around Kabul, from which the	

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insurgents have fired at aircraft. Military aircraft using the airport at Kabul also use flares to deflect heat—seeking missiles, and the	
Embassy reported that Soviet artillery around the airport frequently	
fire into the hills to suppress insurgent antiaircraft positions.	25 X 1
Afghan insurgents	25X1
assassinated a high-ranking Interior Ministry official in Kabul. A Deputy Minister of the Interior escaped assassination by fleeing into a	
neighbor's yard.	25 X 1
Panjsher Valley Developments	
	25 X 1
Sources of the US Embassy indicate that the Soviets have blocked some of Masood's key supply lines into the Panjsher Valley. According to the Embassy, the destruction of crops in the Panjsher by Soviet and Afghan forces has left Masood's guerrillas dependent on outside supplies for food. Masood is increasingly concerned that snow-blocked mountain passes and Soviet efforts to interdict passable trails into the valley	
will exacerbate food shortages for the Panjsher resistance.	25X1
	25 X 1
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The Border Region	:	
The Afghan insurgents continued to maintain pro	essure on regime border	2
outposts in Konar and Paktia Provinces in Novembe	ır,	
provinces trying to relieve the outposts and to cut		
infiltration routes from Pakistan.		2
		2
	there were few	
incidents along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border in		2
		2
Dustaal		
Outlook		
Winter weather will constrain major military at for the next three months. The insurgents probable		
to take the initiative in attacking Soviet and regime	supply lines and	
outposts than the Soviets and Afghan Army, whose limited by bad weather—particularly in attacks aga		
positions in the mountains. The winter months ma	y also see an	
intensification of insurgent attacks in the cities, es The Soviets probably will tighten security in the c		
anticipation that the resistance will try to stage a	dramatic incident	
to mark the fifth anniversary of the Soviet invasio	n in December.	
		2
oggressive Caviet offerte to intendict incoment	More More	
aggressive Soviet efforts to interdict insurgent sup resistance resupply more difficult in early spring a		
cross-border attacks into Pakistan. Although major		

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